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## *Last Leg of the Homecoming Ends at America's Doorsteps*

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This time they came home to the neighborhoods and streets they knew. They found little children offering candlelight welcomes, high school bands striking up patriotic tunes and neighbors cheering. They ripped yellow ribbons from trees in their very own front yards.

\* \* \* \*

A few former hostages pleaded for privacy. Phillip Ward of Culpeper stopped by the town hall yesterday to chat with officials but the public wasn't invited. His family had asked that the visit be kept secret.

Ward seemed like "a nervous wreck," Mayor Richard Rosenberg said. "He looks like a man who wants to be left alone."

EXCERPTED